

Application Number: 09/896,567

Docket Number: 10010930-1

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for formatting a publication, comprising:
  - associating, within a server, each of a plurality of content items with a select number of sub-templates selected from a plurality of sub-templates;
  - generating an instance file in the server, wherein the instance file specifies a template and a number of content items, and the instance file associating a respective one of the sub-templates with each of the content items; and
  - generating an output file using the template, the sub-templates, and the content items specified in the instance file, wherein the template includes an undefined region, and wherein the sub-templates are employed in placing ones of the content items in the undefined region, and, a plurality of different combinations of the sub-templates may be associated with the corresponding content items, the undefined region being compatible with any one of the different combinations of the sub-templates, thereby facilitating the creation of a plurality of documents having a corresponding number of different layout configurations using the same template.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the content items are user-specified content items, and wherein the generating is done in response to a request, wherein the request includes one or more request identifiers corresponding to the user-specified content items.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to the generating, receiving the request from a client computer.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the instance file also includes document-specific content items not corresponding to the request identifiers.
5. (Canceled)

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6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the template also includes defined location copyholes, and wherein the generating of the output file includes placing content items not associated with sub-templates into the defined location copyholes.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the templates include differently sized ones of the sub-templates.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein one of the sub-templates has a height that is a whole number multiple of a height of another of the sub-templates.

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10. (Currently Amended) A system in a server for formatting a publication, comprising:

means for associating, within the server, each of a plurality of content items with a select number of sub-templates selected from a plurality of sub-templates; and

means for generating an instance file in the server, wherein the instance file specifies a template and a number of content items, and the instance file associating a respective one of the sub-templates with each of the content items; and

means for generating an output file using the template, the sub-templates, and the content items specified in the instance file, wherein the template includes an undefined region, and wherein the sub-templates are employed in placing ones of the content items in the undefined region, and, a plurality of different combinations of the sub-templates may be associated with the corresponding content items, the undefined region being compatible with any one of the different combinations of the sub-templates, thereby facilitating the creation of a plurality of documents having a corresponding number of different layout configurations using the same template.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for generating includes means for generating in response to a request, and wherein the request includes an indication of at least some of the one or more content items.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for receiving the request from a client computer.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the instance file also includes document-specific content items not corresponding to the request identifiers.

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14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the template also includes a number of defined location copyholes, and wherein the means for generating the output file includes means for placing respective ones of the content items not associated with the sub-templates into the defined location copyholes.

17. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the sub-templates further comprise differently sized sub-templates.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein one of the sub-templates has a height that is a whole number multiple of a height of another of the sub-templates.

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19. (Currently Amended) A system for formatting a publication, comprising:

a processor circuit having a processor and a memory; and  
publication formatting logic stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the publication formatting logic including:

logic that associates each of a plurality of content items with a select number of sub-templates selected from a plurality of sub-templates; and

logic that generates an instance file in the server, wherein the instance file specifies a template and a number of content items, and the instance file associating a respective one of the sub-templates with each of the content items; and

logic that generates an output file using the template, the sub-templates, and the content items specified in the instance file, wherein the template includes an undefined region, and wherein the sub-templates are employed in placing ones of the content items in the undefined region, and, a plurality of different combinations of the sub-templates may be associated with the corresponding content items, the undefined region being compatible with any one of the different combinations of the sub-templates, thereby facilitating the creation of a plurality of documents having a corresponding number of different layout configurations using the same template.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the logic that generates the instance file includes logic that generates the instance file in response to a request, and wherein the request includes an indication of at least some of the one or more content items.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising logic that receives the request from a client computer.

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22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the instance file also includes document-specific content items not corresponding to the request identifiers.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the template also includes a number of defined location copyholes, and wherein the logic that generates the output file includes logic that places content items not associated with the sub-templates into the defined location copyholes.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the sub-templates include differently sized sub-templates.

27. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein one of the sub-templates has a height that is a whole number multiple of a height of another of the sub-templates.